

Dear Parents of Confirmands,

September 2025

We are excited to partner with your family as your children prepare to take this next step in their spiritual lives during our 2025-2026 youth confirmation class. The catechism describes confirmation as "the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." At confirmation young people reaffirm the promises made on their behalf when they were baptized, and they are given the opportunity to take ownership and commit to those promises themselves. In confirmation preparation, we learn about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today, and we discover how to receive, live, and share in the abundant life he has in store for us as children of God. We seek to empower and disciple our youth during class as we discuss questions like who is Jesus, how do we read the Bible, does prayer work, what is the church, what happens in Communion, and what does it mean to live as Christians in our context? We hope it will also be an opportunity for our students to get a chance to know our clergy. This transformative year-long class is one of commitment and celebration. We joyfully partner with your children as they learn, grow, and commit their lives to Christ and his Kingdom.

We will be preparing for Confirmation through our Sunday morning classes, as well as several other opportunities, services, and events. Please see the calendar in this packet for a list of all our events. St. George's Confirmation process for youth runs from September to mid-May, concluding with the bishop's visit at the 8:45am service on May 10. Please read through this information letter and the calendar to see if these dates will work for your family. All students are expected to attend every class session. Missed classes may require separate meetings with Phil Gaines or other adult Confirmation leaders to cover the material. If significant absences are anticipated due to travel or other circumstances, please consider enrolling for Confirmation next year instead.

Our Sunday classes will be held upstairs in the Confirmation classroom (Room 220) during the Sunday School hour (from 10:05 to 11:00am). These classes are typically just attended by our 8th grade confirmands. If your child is older than 8th grade and would like to be confirmed, please reach out to our youth staff as we have a separate option for older students. Throughout this process, we expect you, as a family, to make weekly participation in Sunday worship a priority! We encourage parents to find their own ways to participate more in their faith and the life of the church. Our worship and liturgy will be referenced often during class, so it is vitally important for confirmands to attend worship services on a weekly basis. We depend on parents' commitment to corporate worship for this dimension of our program to be successful. We encourage you to attend the 8:45am service in the Nave or the 9:00am Table service in Legacy Hall prior to class each Sunday.

On the following pages you'll find important information about our class that will help you prepare for this process. Please read through them carefully so you'll know what to expect. We will email an update for Youth Confirmation every Monday to parents, Confirmands, and their Mentors, describing our class topic of the week, providing discussion questions to talk about as a family, and reminding you of upcoming events. We are praying for your child during this special season.

Peace,

Phil Gaines
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Phil.Gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org

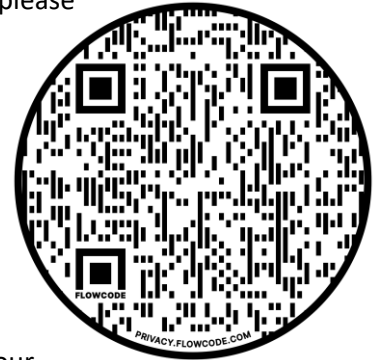
The Rev. Jason Terhune
Associate Rector for Family Ministries
Jason.Terhune@stgeorgesnashville.org

For info about youth confirmation, visit our website at <https://stgeorgesnashville.org/youth>

Important Info for Confirmation 2025-2026

Registration and Forms: Find all Confirmation Information at <https://www.flowcode.com/page/confirmation>

- Confirmation Registration: If you have not yet registered your child for Confirmation, please scan the QR code below to do so.
- Parent Permission Form: All students participating in St. George's Youth Ministry are asked to have a parent fill out our yearly Parent Permission Form. Scan the QR code and fill out the form once for all your children for the whole year.
- Mentor Registration: Please help your Confirmand choose a Mentor and register them online by the October 1. Please note that **parents** are responsible for filling out this registration form on behalf of their child's Mentor. See the "Mentoring" Section below for more information on how to choose a Mentor.



Contact Us: Phil Gaines, our Associate Youth Director, is handling the logistics and details for our youth confirmation class. Please contact him at phil.gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org with questions about class attendance, registration, choice of mentor, parent volunteer roles, class materials, etc. The Rev. Jason Terhune is the clergy contact for Youth Confirmation. Please contact him at jason.terhune@stgeorgesnashville.org with questions about class content, discernment about whether to seek confirmation, or pastoral care matters.

Age of Confirmands & Attendance: 8th grade is the minimum age for confirmation at St. George's, but it is fine for students to be confirmed at an older age as well, in which case they can meet with other confirmands of their grade level outside of our 8th Grade class. When athletic schedules or family circumstances make it difficult for a Confirmand to participate fully in our class, we encourage families to consider waiting a year before entering this process. As noted above, all students are expected to attend every class session. Missed classes may require separate meetings with Phil or other adult Confirmation leaders to cover the material. If significant absences are anticipated due to travel or other circumstances, please consider enrolling for Confirmation next year instead.

Homework: Throughout the year we ask that confirmands complete several simple tasks and assignments. We will be reading a book called *Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel as well as reading some other articles and watching occasional videos. The book will be given to the Confirmand at our opening class session. Confirmands will receive a handout and weekly email reminders on Mondays with required homework, upcoming events, and other pertinent information. You can find the full list of assignments below.

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Widjiwagan, 7:30am Saturday, November 1 – 2:00pm Sunday, November 2: This *required* retreat is one of our Confirmands' favorite experiences. To register and learn more, scan the QR code above! Please contact Phil with any questions or concerns.

Blessing of the Confirmands, Sunday, November 9: We will have a brief commissioning during the announcements at the 8:45am service, where the Rev. J. Malone Gilliam will pray for God's blessing on our Confirmands and commission us for our confirmation program. We ask that Confirmands, their families, and mentors sit towards the front of the church. Confirmands and Mentors will be invited forward during the announcement time.

Special Service Attendance: All Confirmands are expected to attend the following services:

- Ash Wednesday (with Mentors) | February 18 | 6:00pm (meeting at 5:15 beforehand)
- Stations of the Cross (with Mentors) | February 24 **or** 27 | 5:00pm
- Palm Sunday | March 29 | 8:45am, 9:00am or 11:00am
- Maundy Thursday (with Mentors) | April 2 | 7:30pm
- Good Friday | April 3 | 12:00pm or 6:00pm

Rehearsal Dinner: On Wednesday, May 6, beginning at 5:30pm, we will have a rehearsal to walk through Confirmation Sunday. Immediately following the rehearsal, we will share a meal together with Bishop Bauerschmidt in Bradford Gallery for a time for celebration. **We ask parents to collect cards and notes of encouragement for the Confirmand from family members, friends, and Mentors/sponsors to be handed out on Confirmation Sunday.** Please put all

cards/letters in ONE large manila envelope marked with the Confirmand's full name and bring it to the church office by Wednesday, May 6 (the day of the Rehearsal Dinner). This is a wonderful and meaningful **surprise** for our Confirmands.

Confirmation Sunday: Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 10 during the 8:45am service. You and your families are invited to a reception after the service in Hampton Hall.

Guidelines for dress for Confirmation Sunday:

Boys – Please wear a blazer and khakis or a suit.

Girls – Traditionally at St. George's, girls being confirmed have worn white. We recommend that you dress in clothes you will be comfortable wearing in front of the congregation; low-cut dresses and short skirts are discouraged. Please cover bare shoulders or spaghetti straps with a white sweater during the service. Please do not wear flip-flops, as they tend to fall off when kneeling before the bishop; sandals with a heel strap are fine.

Confirmation Homework (2025-2026)

FALL

- **Read** John 1:19-34, John 14:25-27, and *Washed by Water*
- **Read** “What is Confirmation” from Anglican Compass
- **Read** pages 1-24 of *Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel
- Watch the following **videos**:
 - “What is the Bible” by BibleProject
 - “The Satan and Demons” by BibleProject
 - “Holy Spirit” by BibleProject
- **Attend one St. George’s worship service other than Sunday morning** (Compline, Morning Eucharist, Evensong, etc.)
- **Complete Three Service Questionnaires** – Fill out the service questionnaire form (see below) for three Sunday services throughout the semester and turn them in to either Phil or your Sunday small group leader (There is always a stack of these in the rack outside the Nave and another outside the Table service, so just grab one on your way in and fill it out during the service).
- **Request mentor by October 1st** – Your mentor should be a confirmed adult member of St. George’s (not a family member) who will walk alongside you in the process of preparing for Confirmation. We will help you if you’re not sure who to ask!
- **Fall Mission Reflection** – Engage in a missional service opportunity through St. George’s Outreach. Write a brief reflection answering what you did and what you thought about and learned from the experience.
- **Read** Mark 2:1-12

SPRING

- **Watch** the video “Church History in Ten Minutes” from TrueTube
- **Read from the Book of Common Prayer**: *Presentation and Examination of the Candidates, The Baptismal Covenant, Prayers for the Candidates* (pages 415-418)
- **Write down your own examples of prayers** of:
1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication (see page 23 in *Why Jesus?*); one of each on a notecard
- **Have your first conversation with your mentor** about their faith story. You can ask them how they became a Christian, how they got to St. George’s, why they apply their faith in their daily lives, and/or how they’ve seen God work throughout their lives.
- **Attend Ash Wednesday** service with your mentor on February 18th.
- **Choose** one Spiritual Discipline to practice from Feb 8-Feb 22nd.
- **Read** Luke 22:7-29
- **Attend Holy Week services**: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday
- **Spring Mission Reflection** – (See notes for Fall Mission Reflection)
- **Complete 3 Service Questionnaires** – (See notes for Fall Service Questionnaires)
- **Final Confirmation Reflection Paper** – This is the very last assignment that the confirmand will complete. They must email a copy of it to Phil (phil.gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org) and share it with their mentor. The paper itself must include:
 - 400-500 words (about 1 page double-spaced 12 pt font)
 - 1 Bible verse
 - The paper must answer one of the three prompts below:
 - The catechism tells us that creeds are “statements of our basic beliefs about God.” Write your own personal creed. This doesn’t replace the historic creeds of the church like the Apostles’ and Nicene Creed, but this is an opportunity for you to express your belief in God and how he calls us to live as Christians. Usually creeds begin with “I believe...” Look at page 851 in the BCP to see more about the Creeds. You might also look at the Psalms, which tells us a lot about who God is.
 - Let’s say a friend of yours who doesn’t go to church asks you to tell them about why you go to church and what being a Christian is all about. How would you answer your friend? What are the

essentials of our faith in Christ and the way we are called to live it out? You might look at the baptismal covenant for some clues (BCP, page 304).

- The catechism tells us that confirmation is the time when we “express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.” Write about what being confirmed means to you. Why do you want to take on the promises that your parents made on your behalf at your baptism? (See BCP page 302-305 to review those promises).

Mentors for Youth Confirmation

One of the most important parts of the confirmation process is the confirmand's relationship with a sponsor, whom we refer to as their Mentor during this process. We encourage confirmands to think of an adult member of St. George's (someone other than family members, clergy, or youth staff) whom he or she thinks would do a good job of listening to them and talking with them about life and the Christian faith. Parents may suggest names if the youth asks for their help in choosing a Mentor, but the final decision belongs to the Confirmand. If you're new to St. George's and/or unsure of who to ask, please contact the youth staff for suggestions. Please choose and register a Mentor by October 1st. **Parents, please share the following information and dates with your potential Mentor about their role before they commit. Once they have committed, please fill out the Mentor Registration Form on our website.**

Mentors are asked to attend the following events; if you are unable to attend an event, please let Phil know via email (phil.gaines@stgeorgesnashville.org) and ask one of your confirmand's parents to attend in your place:

1. **Blessing of the Confirmands | Sunday, November 9 | 8:45 am, the Nave**
Mentors will come forward with the Confirmands during announcements for a prayer and attend an orientation meeting immediately following the service (see #2 below).
2. **Mentor Orientation | Sunday, November 9 | 10:15 am, Johnson Hall**
3. Have **two 30-45 minute one-on-one conversations** with your Confirmand between February 1st and Confirmation Sunday. You may schedule these conversations at whatever time and place works for both of you. The two conversations should occur with the Confirmand's parents nearby but out of hearing range.
 - The first conversation, held at some point in February, is dedicated to the Mentor and Confirmand getting to know each other, including the Mentor sharing some part of his or her "faith story" with the Confirmand. The Mentor will talk about how they came to know God and what impact their Christian faith has on their life.
 - The second conversation, held at some point in April, is dedicated to the Confirmand sharing their final reflection paper with the Mentor. The Confirmand will be working on this during our class and then sharing it with their Mentor. In response, we hope the Mentor and Confirmand can discuss how the Confirmand is thinking and feeling about being confirmed and why they are choosing to take this step.
4. Attend **Ash Wednesday meeting and service** with your Confirmand
On Ash Wednesday, February 18, Confirmands and Mentors will gather at 5:15pm in Johnson Hall for a meeting to discuss Lenten disciplines and attend the 6:00pm service at St. George's together.
5. Attend a service of **the Stations of the Cross**.
On February 24 and 27 at 5:00pm, Fr. Jason Terhune will lead the confirmands and mentors in a time of reflective prayer using the Stations of the Cross displayed in the Nave. Choose one together with your confirmand that works for your schedule.
6. Attend **Maundy Thursday** service with your Confirmand
Mentors and Confirmands are asked to attend our Maundy Thursday service together on April 2 at 7:30pm.
7. Attend the **Rehearsal and Dinner with Bishop Bauerschmidt**, Wednesday, May 6, at 5:30pm
Confirmands & Mentors will meet in the Nave at 5:30pm for the rehearsal of the confirmation service and then have dinner in the Bradford Gallery with Bishop Bauerschmidt as our special guest and speaker.
8. Attend the **Confirmation service**, Sunday, May 10 at the 8:45am service
Confirmands and Mentors gather in Hampton Hall at 8:15am for final instructions before the 8:45am service. The Mentors will stand with their Confirmand as the bishop lays hands on them and prays for them. After the service we will have a reception in Hampton Hall.

CONFIRMATION FALL 2025		
Date	Class Subject	Homework to Prepare for this Class Session
24-Aug	Youth & Family Orientation: 10:00am in Legacy Hall	
31-Aug	Labor Day Weekend: No Confirmation class! Enjoy the holiday!	
7-Sep	Welcome & Introduction Confirmation Orientation for Parents & Confirmands (11:15am in Johnson Hall)	
14-Sep	Baptism: Washed in Water	Read John 1:19-34 & John 14:25-27 and "Washed by Water: Baptism in the Early Church"
21-Sep	Confirmation: Why Get Confirmed?	Read "What is Confirmation?" from Anglican Compass
28-Sep	Life: Is This It?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 1-8
5-Oct	Jesus: Who is He?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 8-15
12-Oct	Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 15-21
19-Oct	Fall Break: No Confirmation class, but please join us in the Jones Rotunda for Family Fellowship	
26-Oct	Faith: How Can I Have Faith?	Read <i>Why Jesus?</i> Pages 22-24
2-Nov	Fall Retreat: Camp Widjiwagan – November 1-November 2	
9-Nov	Blessing of the Confirmands and Mentor Orientation: No class, but attend the following: Blessing of the Confirmands – 8:45am Nave (all confirmands and mentors) Mentor Orientation Meeting – 10:15am Confirmation Room (Room 220) (mentors only)	
16-Nov	Bible: Why and How Do I Read the Bible?	Watch the YouTube Video "What is the Bible" by BibleProject
23-Nov	Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?	Watch the YouTube Video "The Satan and Demons" by BibleProject
30-Nov	Thanksgiving Break: No Confirmation class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
7-Dec	Spirit: Who Is the Holy Spirit?	Watch the YouTube Video "Holy Spirit" by BibleProject
14-Dec	Christmas Party	By the end of the Fall semester all confirmands must have finished reading <i>Why Jesus?</i> , attended an additional worship service, and turned in their Fall Mission Reflection and three service questionnaires.
Merry Christmas! No Sunday School over Christmas Break; please join us for our Christmas services!		
Confirmation class resumes on January 11		

CONFIRMATION SPRING 2026		
Date	Class Subject	Homework to Prepare for this Class Session
11-Jan	Church: What about the Church?	Watch “Church History in Ten Minutes” (TrueTube) on YouTube
18-Jan	MLK Weekend: No Confirmation Class, but join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
25-Jan	Confirmation Promises: The Christian Life	Read pages 415-418 of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , “Presentation and Examination of the Candidates, The Baptismal Covenant, and Prayers for the Candidates”
1-Feb	The Creeds: What We Believe	Have your first conversation with your mentor about their faith story if you haven’t already.
8-Feb	Spiritual Disciplines: How We Grow in Faith	
15-Feb	Presidents’ Day Break: No Confirmation Class today but join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
18-Feb	Ash Wednesday: We will have a meeting for confirmands and mentors at 5:15pm in Johnson Hall and then will attend the 6:00pm Ash Wednesday service together.	
22-Feb	Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?	Continue practicing the spiritual discipline you chose last class!
24-Feb or 27-Feb	Stations of the Cross: Confirmands and Mentors choose one 5pm session to attend, where they will learn from one of the clergy how to pray the Stations of the Cross.	
1-Mar	The Book of Common Prayer	Make your own example of prayers of 1. Adoration 2. Confession 3. Thanksgiving 4. Supplication (page 23 in <i>Why Jesus?</i>); write one of each and turn them in to Phil or your small group leader.
8-Mar	The Last Supper, Passover, and the Eucharist	Read Luke 22:7-29
15-Mar	Spring Break: No Confirmation Class, but please join us in Akers for Family Fellowship	
22-Mar	Spring Break: No Confirmation Class, but please join us in Akers for a combined 7-12 th Sunday School	
HOLY WEEK (3/29-4/5) Confirmands are expected to attend the following services throughout Holy Week: Palm Sunday March 29 8:45am, 9:00am, & 11:00am Maundy Thursday (with Mentors) April 2 7:30pm Good Friday April 3 12:00pm & 6:00pm Easter Sunday April 5 7:00am, 8:45am, 9:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm		
12-Apr	Telling Others: Why and How Should I Tell Others?	Have you finished your final Confirmation paper and shared it with your mentor?
19-Apr	New Life: How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?	Have you finished your final Confirmation paper and shared it with your mentor?
26-Apr	Jeopardy	By the end of the Spring semester all confirmands must have attended an additional worship service, and turned in their Spring Mission Reflection and three service questionnaires.
6-May	Rehearsal & Dinner with the Bishop: Confirmands & mentors must meet in the nave at 5:30pm for our rehearsal and afterwards we will enjoy dinner and a word from the Bishop. Your final Confirmation paper is due to Phil by today.	
10-May	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Confirmands and mentors will meet in Hampton Hall at 8:15am and will then process into the nave together. All are welcome to join us for a reception in Hampton Hall afterwards!	